



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 24, 2009

**Contact:** Aurelio Rojas 213-280-6579  
James Bolden 213-200-5314

**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS URGES THAT COUNTY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE  
ACCESS TO CASE FILES OF CHILD DEATHS**

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today urged the Board to ensure the County Auditor-Controller have appropriate access to Department of Children and Family Services case files to properly test the accuracy of demographic and case management information collected and analyzed as part of a report ordered by the Supervisors.

“Such testing will allow the Auditor-Controller to finalize its report and for the Board of Supervisors to have comprehensive information regarding the trends, issues and DCFS policies surrounding child fatalities as well as information regarding specific fatality cases,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas stated in his motion, which will be considered next week by the Board.

In July, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Chief Executive Office to work with the Auditor-Controller and the DCFS Director to gather the demographics of all children in the system and their fatalities -- homicide or accidental -- for the past three years.

The Board also requested the department to identify any underlying trends or issues and analyze those trends and issues to determine how they may contribute to deficiencies in existing policies, as they relate to the identifying, assigning, reporting, and monitoring of cases.

“To do this, it is necessary to modify the special investigation previously ordered by this Board,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said in his motion.

The Auditor Controller’s Office report is expected to report the outcome of its investigation in a confidential report to the Supervisors within 90 days.

# # # #